



NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2021

COVID-19
vaccination

COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE

As many of you will be aware the practice started COVID-19 vaccinations at the beginning of December 2020. We are the vaccination hub for patients registered with Guilsborough, Brixworth, Crick, Long Buckby and Byfield surgeries, as well as our own patients. We have taken on a mammoth task.

Initially vaccination supplies were sporadic, but in recent weeks we have been able to vaccinate between 1200 and 1800 patients a week routinely and on a couple of weeks have managed nearly 3000 vaccinations.

We have recruited a very cheerful team of volunteer Meet and Greeters who have had to work out in the worst of our winter weather. No thunder and lightning, but certainly sleet and snow and biting cold winds and many days of sub-zero temperatures. Their dedication and enthusiasm has been much appreciated by patients arriving for their vaccinations. Our reception and administration staff spend many hours a week arranging appointments for people due their vaccination. We have now trained a team of approaching 30 vaccinators and ensure that each session is staffed by at least one GP and nurse who routinely work for the practice. This additional workforce includes nurses working elsewhere within the local NHS, returning retired GPs, paramedics, pharmacists and a few hospital based consultants. We are all very grateful for their contributions.

The vaccination programme is a marathon and not a sprint and at the time of writing in mid-February we have completed the Tiers 1-4 and provided approaching 12500 vaccinations. We still have the remaining Tiers to complete, but are confident that everybody over 50 years of age will have had their first vaccination by the end of March at the current rate of vaccination. Then we have to revaccinate everybody with their second dose!

Despite this great effort we have still managed to keep much of the routine GP care going. Throughout COVID there has been a change in the way things are done and in some cases where physically things are done. However we are still here for our patients when you need us and continue to care for those with serious ongoing medical problems and support those patients whose mental health has been damaged by this pandemic.

We all look forward to happier times in the months ahead.

APPRENTICESHIP MAGAZINE

Our former apprentice, Lula, was featured in the 'All Things Business' magazine in November 2020. The article reads:

Lula Phillipps joined the practice in December 2019 as an administration apprentice and her trainer Lisa has highlighted how she has excelled through the coronavirus pandemic.

We asked Lula to tell us a little about her experience: "I work at the Greens Norton and Weedon Medical Practice and I am doing a Business Administration Apprenticeship with Starting Off. My experience at Starting Off has been educational and enjoyable; it was the perfect opportunity for me to work full-time while also gaining a Business Administration qualification. My experience of being an apprentice during the pandemic has been successful and advantageous, as I have been supported throughout by Starting Off. I'd recommend an apprenticeship with Starting Off because it allows you to learn, work and gain a recognised qualification."

Her manager Elaine Stephens added: "Lula is a loyal and dedicated apprentice who has brought fresh perspectives to the team. She has quickly progressed through her training which we have had to adapt due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time Lula and I have welcomed the help and support provided by Starting Off."

Lisa Lucas who is a Trainer at Starting Off said: "Currently we have four active apprentices at the Greens Norton and Weedon Medical Centres who are all excelling in their apprenticeship programmes. Lula has adapted very well to the change in training delivery and remote style of learning without any hindrance. I am very proud of the determination and effort she is putting into her work."

You can find the article at: <https://allthingsbusiness.co.uk/2020/11/03/shining-a-light-on-the-star-apprentices/>

Lula's Apprenticeship Mentor Lisa from Starting Off has also nominated her for a special shout out for National Apprenticeship Week. This was due to her 'exceedingly good effort in her apprenticeship and ability to excel above and beyond what she is expected of'.



Lula Phillipps, All Things Business Magazine



Lula Phillipps, National Apprenticeship Week

MEDICATION REVIEWS

Our clinical pharmacist, Ridwan Patel, has been supporting the practice with medication reviews and helping to improve medication safety, systems and policies. He is also available to answer any medication queries or concerns. We will be introducing an improved system for managing medication reviews from April 2021, which we hope will make things easier and more efficient for patients and everyone at the practice.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are pleased to welcome Richard Keating, First Contact Podiatrist, to the practice – Richard will be predominately working at Greens Norton Medical Centre, seeing patients with problems relating to feet and ankles. We would like to welcome Dr Alice Lenton back from her maternity leave. Our registrar programme continues at the practice, with Dr Ahmad Kusimo, ST2, working with us until the end of March – in April, we will welcome two new registrars to the practice. At the end of last year we said goodbye to Claire Lowe, practice nurse, and Sheila Beel, HCA, and will shortly be welcoming new nurses to the team. We are also delighted to announce that three of our apprentices have recently completed their apprenticeships, two of whom have joined the practice as full time members of staff. We have now also had three new apprentices join the administration team across both sites. Finally we are pleased to announce that Will and India have now joined the practice to form a COVID-19 vaccination administration team.

EXTENDED HOURS AND EXTENDED ACCESS

Extended Hours and Extended Access are currently suspended at the practice; this is due to the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination clinics. We are unsure when these will continue to resume as normal.

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

We are still currently booking telephone appointments in the first instance. If the GP or nurse feels that they need to see you face to face, then they will make an appointment for you to be seen in the surgery. We would kindly ask that you make sure that the practice has your correct telephone numbers. Also, if you have a telephone appointment booked, please ensure you keep your telephone with you so you do not miss the call.

BANK HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

Thursday 01 April 2021	Normal Hours
Friday 02 April 2021	CLOSED (Good Friday)
Monday 05 April 2021	CLOSED (Easter Monday)
Tuesday 06 April 2021	Normal Hours
Friday 30 April 2021	Normal Hours
Monday 03 May 2021	CLOSED (Early May Bank Holiday)
Tuesday 04 May 2021	Normal Hours
Friday 28 May 2021	Normal Hours
Monday 31 May 2021	CLOSED (Spring Bank Holiday)
Tuesday 01 June 2021	Normal Hours

SURGERY CLOSURE FOR STAFF TRAINING

Both Greens Norton Medical Centre and Weedon Surgery will be closed on the following Wednesday afternoons for staff training. The surgeries will close at 12.30pm.

Wednesday 17 March 2021

Wednesday 28 April 2021

Wednesday 05 May 2021

Wednesday 23 June 2021

Wednesday 07 July 2021

For urgent medical problems that cannot wait until we re-open please telephone the NHS Out-Of-Hours service on 111.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

The United Kingdom is still currently in a national lockdown. COVID-19 is spreading fast. Do not leave your home unless necessary. 1 in 3 people who have the virus have no symptoms, so you could be spreading it without knowing it. For up-to-date guidance and updates, please visit the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

